

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 PC-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SSC-01 AGR-20

RSR-01 /153 W

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R 241425Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8658

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: GUYANA ELECTIONS; BURNHAM'S VICTORY SPEECH

1. IN VICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED SUNDAY NIGHT (JULY 22) AT NATIONAL PARK, PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM ANNOUNCED THAT PARLIAMENT WILL ASSEMBLE ON THURSDAY, JULY 26 AT WHICH TIME A SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER WILL BE ELECTED AND TWO BILLS PRESENTED. ONE WILL BE TO ELIMINATE APPEALS TO THE (UK) PRIVY COUNCIL WHICH HITHERTO HAS BEEN GUYANA'S FINAL COURT OF APPEAL, AND THE OTHER TO GIVE THE VOTE TO CITIZENS FROM THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN. BURNHAM SAID REASON HE SOUGHT 2/3RD MAJORITY WAS TO HAVE STRONG GOV'T CAPABLE OF PASSING THESE BILLS.

2. IN NATIONAL BROADCAST THURSDAY NIGHT (JULY 19), FOLLOWING OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS PARTY'S ELECTION VICTORY, BURNHAM HAD COMMITTED HIMSELF TO CONTINUANCE OF DEMOCRACY UNDER RULE OF LAW, PLEDGED GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE AND MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. HE ISSUED INVITATION TO LEADER OF OPPOSITION PPP, CHEDDI JAGAN, TO SIT DOWN WITH HIM AND "DISCUSS THE WAY
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AHEAD FOR GUYANA".

3. IN JULY 22 SPEECH, ALLUDING TO CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO WHICH JAGAN HAS NOT YET RESPONDED, BURNHAM CAUTIONED THAT IT NOT BE REGARDED AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS. HE ALSO RIDICULED PPP ASSERTION THAT IT DID NOT ACCEPT RESULTS. HE SAID PPP HAS NEITHER POWER NOR CAPACITY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. HE SAID BITTERNESS OF CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE MADE THING OF PAST AND OPPOSITION MUST DECIDE WHETHER ITS PERSONAL PREFERENCE IS FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL KUDOS OR FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GUYANA.

4. BURNHAM CREDITED HIS GOV'TS POLICIES WITH "LANDSLIDE" VICTORY. HE SAID FOLLOWING ALL SUPPORTED PNC: PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO GIVEN REASONABLE WAGE; TRADE UNION MOVEMENT RELATIONSHIP OF WHICH WITH GOV'T BASED ON UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDLINESS; AMERINDIANS WHO "DISGUSTED WITH HYPOCRACY OF PPP"; RICE FARMERS WHO MUCH BETTER OFF THAN BEFORE; AND, BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHICH "APPRECIATED AND SUPPORTED" GOV'T POLICY. "ABOVE ALL", HE SAID, "MEMORIES ARE NOT SO SHORT AS TOFORGET EVENTS OF 1963-64, AND NOT TO COMPARE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF TODAY WITH MAYHEM, FIRES, ARSON, AND MURDER OF THE SIXTIES".
KING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GEORGE01088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730715/aaaaakmn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by phillir0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA ELECTIONS; BURNHAM'S VICTORY SPEECH
TAGS: PINT, GY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005